

TCS-3523-58  
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DRAFT: JQR:cw  
6 August 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Special Assistant to the Director  
for Planning and Development

**SUBJECT :** Request for Peripheral Photography

1. The ARC on 23 April 1958 (ARC-M-80  50X1  
TCS-3064-58) set forth its request for oblique photography on the Soviet  
periphery. This followed upon a statement of its recommendations for  
ELINT peripheral coverage on 15 March 1958 (ARC-M-78, TCS-2880-58).  
Recognizing that there might be a competition between these two requests,  
The ARC stated:

"Insofar as there is any competition for limited operational resources  
in achieving coverage of the requirements indicated between such  
coverage and that recommended for peripheral ELINT missions  
(see ARC-M-78, TCS-2880-58, paragraphs  LC was 50X1  
of the view that peripheral ELINT coverage  should  
take precedence, and a now unknown event of major significance  
in the ELINT field, such as fleet activity or a missile launching,  
might take precedence. (On the occasion of such an event, the  
ARC would submit timely recommendations.)"

2. Since that time, on 14 May 1958 (ARC-M-81, TCS-3144-58),  
the ARC confirmed the views referred to and stated that its views on  
peripheral photographic missions are still valid though the offshore  
distance will extend twenty miles as opposed to the minimum distance  
offshore of three miles hitherto noted. It also confirmed its view as  
stated in the quotation (immediate paragraph above) in the event there

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is competition for limited operational resources.

3. Pursuant to Air Force views expressed at an ARC meeting on 3 June 1958 (ARC-M-83, TCS-3293-58), the ARC requested HTAUTOMAT to prepare a study which would indicate more precisely what might be expected from oblique photography at twenty miles offshore noting areas subject to photo interpretation and areas where only recognition of cultural objects was feasible. On the occasion of the examination of this study on 12 June 1958 (ARC-M-84, TCS-3313-58) and consultation with Operations DPS/DCI, no objections were raised to the proposed peripheral or ELINT coverage. At that time the Air Force submitted a paper listing requirements of the Air Force for peripheral photographic coverage in addition to those previously submitted by the Army and the Navy.

4. The ARC strongly believes, particularly after examining a photographic exhibit prepared from Mission 6012 (coverage of the CHICOM Coast), that the possibilities of securing valuable and possibly critical intelligence information from pursuing a peripheral photographic program are greater today than when its views were expressed initially. This appears to be principally as a result of improvements which have been effected by the Project in the performance of the B configuration, its reliability and resolution.

5. The present paper identifies the targets of greatest interest and estimates the possible benefits that may accrue if peripheral oblique photography with the B configuration were undertaken.